

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the title as follows:

SEWING MACHINE WITH PICKER AND PICKER CONTROL PROGRAM

~~THEREOF~~ THEREFOR

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The present invention provides a sewing machine comprising a sewing mechanism including a needle bar, a thread take-up lever and a shuttle, a picker capable of holding a needle thread extending from an eye of a sewing needle near the shuttle located below a needle plate, and a picker driver driving the picker between a first stop position where the picker is capable of holding the needle thread and a second stop position spaced farther away from the shuttle than the first position, ~~wherein the picker is movable and~~ to a third stop position spaced farther away from the shuttle than the second position.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When the bobbin is replaced by another during stop of the sewing machine, the operator manually causes the covering member 50 to pivot and carries out the replacement while the covering member 50 remains open. In this case, as shown in FIG. 3B, when remaining at the standby position close to the shuttle 32, the picker 60 is an encumbrance to replacement of the bobbin of the shuttle and as a result, the bobbin is difficult to replace by another. Thus, the picker 60 remaining at the standby position constitutes a hindrance to the bobbin replacement. In view of this problem, as shown in FIG. 3C, the picker 60 can be moved by the picker driving motor 63 to a retreat position (a third stop position) which is spaced farther away from the shuttle 32 than the standby position.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 18, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the above-described construction, when the picker driving solenoid 111 is turned on, the linking member 110 is driven rearward against the biasing force of a spring 112, so that the picker 60 is rotated counterclockwise as viewed in FIG. 8A thereby to be moved to the needle thread holding position. On the other hand, as shown in FIG. 8B, when the picker driving solenoid 111 is in the OFF state with the covering member 50 in the closing state, the picker 60 is biased clockwise (the direction in which the picker 60 abuts on the covering member 50) by the spring 112 as viewed in FIG. 8B since the linking member 110 is biased frontward by the spring 112. In this state, however, the picker 60 abuts on an inside portion of the covering member 50 thereby to stop at the standby position and concurrently, the picker 60 is prevented from ~~movement~~moving to the retreat position.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 19, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the foregoing modified form, substantially the same effect can be achieved as that achieved by the foregoing embodiment. Additionally, the picker 60 can be prevented from ~~movement~~moving to the retreat position and allowed to move to the retreat position by a simple construction comprising the picker driving solenoid 111, spring 112 and covering member 50. Further, no actuator is required for driving the picker 60 to the retreat position.